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Letters protesting the
presence of the KKK in New York
State prisons should be sent to:
Governor Hugh Carey, State Capitol,
Albany, New York 12226 and
Commissioner Richard Hongisto,
Department of Correctional Services,
State Office Building Campus,
Albany, New York 12226.

For more information
about the John Brown Anti-Klan
Committee write: Box 40,
Stuyvesant Station, New York,
New York 10009

* * * *

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* * * *

Guatemala cont'd

streets denouncing the Army murders of unarmed
peasants. Panzos is only the most shocking
example of a pattern of repression in the
campo that is repeated on a smaller level
throughout the country. In Olopa, in the eastern
province of Chiquimula, 100 peasants have been
killed since 1977. Repression is also on the
increase in the Cotzal region of Quiche,
where the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP) has
been active recently, often holding rallies
conducted in the various Indian dialects. In
Quiche the military uses the excuse of looking
for guerrillas to terrorize the peasants,
accusing them of harboring guerrillas.
Repression is also heavy in the northeast region
along the route proposed for an interoceanic
pipeline, where land speculation is intense.

The violence has not prevented the growth of
the Committee for Peasant Unity (CUC), formed
in May 1978 to organize campesinos both into
trade unions for agricultural workers and in
support of their land struggles as subsistence
farmers.

UNITY IN RESISTANCE

In October 1978 the various parts of the
popular movement came together in a general
strike and a series of demonstrations opposing
the government's attempt to double the city
bus fares to 10¢. The increase would have
reduced a worker's monthly income by some 30
percent. True to form, the government responded
with gunfire, leaving 40 dead, 1200 arrested and
more than 2000 fired, most of them from govern-
ment jobs. Unions representing workers in the
Postal Service and Telegraph, as well as nurses'
aides, were declared illegal because of their
support for the strike.

One prominent leader killed during the October
transportation strike was Loiverio Castaneda de
Leon of the University Students Association. As
he was leaving the Central Park in front of the
National Palace in the capital, after speaking at
a rally, Castaneda was gunned down by 15 men
in civilian dress in 5 cars as hundreds watched,
including the many police who had been keeping a
close watch on the rally. People in the crowd
noted the license plates of the cars and the types
of weapons used (which are available only to the
police and army). But the government maintains it
has not been able to apprehend the assailants. Two
witnesses to Castaneda's murder were themselves
killed within the week. Many people viewed these
events as further proof that rightist paramilitary
groups and the government are one and the same.

The unity developed during the strike has
continued and even grown. In March, largely on the
initiative of the trade unions, some 140
popular organizations united to form the
Democratic Front Against Repression to expose
the repression and to aid the families of its
victims.

For more information contact: Guatemala News and
Information Bureau, P.O. Box 4126, Berkeley, CA

LEGAL SYSTEMS

(See packet #953 for background information and interview with march organizer.)

NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

BY CRAIG T. CANAN
LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA, GA (LNS)--Some 1,500 people answered the call for a national demonstration against the death penalty on May 12 and marched through the streets of Atlanta, capital of the state "that has executed more people than any other state in the union."

Anti-death penalty activists came from as far away as Illinois and California to take part in morning workshops and the afternoon rally against the practice of "legalized murder."

The crowd, which was a good mixture of Black and white, women and men, set out through the streets to the state Capitol in the early afternoon, led by folksinger Joan Baez. Baez told this reporter that she "felt inspired" by the number of people and the distances they had come to participate. And she voiced that same feeling when she told the crowd from the steps of the state Capitol, "We now realize that we are not working alone, but in each of our states; we are working together to oppose legalized murder."

Baez was followed by a series of about 20 speakers, representing a wide range of political, religious, labor and legal organizations.

Haywood Burns of the National Conference of Back Lawyers pointed out that the death penalty is "slanted against the Black and poor." Burns observed that "a little over 50 percent of the people on death row are Black in a region which has a population of 22 percent Black."

Another keynote speaker was Joe Ingle, director of the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons, which is generally regarded as the leading grassroots organization opposing

the death penalty. Ingle told the crowd that "we have to turn this thing around by getting folks into the streets protesting, going to prisons, putting pressure on the governors and legislators, and doing everything we can to raise this issue." He estimated that "we have 500 people who could be executed in the next five years. How many can we take?"

Even as the speakers addressed the rally, headlines were counting down the days before the scheduled May 23 executions of John Spenkelink and Willie Jasper Darden in Florida. Ingle predicted that Spenkelink would probably be the first prisoner to be executed unwillingly in this country since 1967, a prediction which remains highly probable even though Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall did step in at the eleventh hour to halt the execution temporarily.

Florida anti-death activist Scharlette Holman passed on a "thank you and hello" from John Spenkelink's children. She also read a greeting of solidarity sent to the demonstration by 74 inmates of the Florida prison system on a hunger strike in solidarity with the National March Against Death.

Other statements of support came from the Detroit City Council and from Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, who officially declared the day "Anti-Death Penalty Day" in honor of the rally.

The presence of two of the members of the Dawson Five was a testimonial to the effectiveness of public protest. The Dawson Five are five Black men who were freed from a capital punishment charge in Dawson, Georgia. Attorney Millard Farmer, who led the defense of the Five and has worked on about 200 other capital cases, named Georgia as the state "that has executed more people than any other state in the union." He explained that was why Atlanta had been chosen as the site for the day of protest.

WORKSHOPS DISCUSS STRATEGIES

During the morning workshops, panelists discussed legal strategies for defeating the

death penalty developed by people like Farmer and ways to organize against the death penalty at the local level.

And in the organizing workshop, panelists called on opponents of the death penalty to involve their social, church and community groups in this issue by bringing it to their attention on a personal level. Participants pointed out that some groups found it effective to organize prison visit programs as part of their work against capital punishment. That point was also emphasized in a smaller workshop of families of death row inmates and was echoed by one of the demonstrators when he was asked what had brought him to the march. Tennessee divinity student Rick McVickor explained that he had been visiting a prisoner on death row every week, "who sits in solitary confinement, just waiting...[He is] only taken out to exercise two hours a week. That's the extent of his freedom. The rest of the time all he has to do is sit and think and wait..."

The demonstrators vowed that they will not just sit and wait while prisoners are sent to the gas chamber or the electric chair. The Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons says it has plans to follow up the national march with local actions and to organize local vigils for the time when the next execution takes place. And Coalition Director Ingle urged the demonstrators to return to their home states and take up the fight. "If you are in a state that has a local death penalty coalition, work with it. If you're in a state that doesn't have one, develop it. Organizing on the local scene on this issue is critical."

(For further information, write the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons at 1216-16th Ave., S. Nashville, Tenn. 37212.)

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WIPE OUT WEBER!!!!!!!

MARCH IN WASHINGTON JUNE 2!!!!!!!!!!!!

LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

SAN FRANCISCO VERDICT SPARKS PROTESTS BY LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

BY LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (LNS)--As the tenth anniversary of the Stonewall riots which sparked the beginning of a visible lesbian and gay liberation movement rapidly approaches, lesbians and gay men around the country are experiencing increased harassment in their communities and are making headlines as they fight back.

In San Francisco, the stunning news that Dan White, former member of the Board of Supervisors who shot and killed Mayor George Moscone and gay supervisor Harvey Milk last November was found guilty of manslaughter instead of first degree murder sent thousands of lesbians and gay men into the streets to protest.

TWINKIE DEFENSE SPURS OUTRAGE

Speaking about the verdict, one San Francisco activist told LNS, "Everyone expected a quick verdict--no one expected the jury to deliberate for six days. It was obvious that it was premeditated murder--he had a gun, extra bullets..."

"It was a ridiculous defense. They said that White had been eating too many Twinkies and drinking too much Coca Cola--that the sugar had affected his mind. They said, since he was such a model citizen, having been a fireman and everything, obviously he would be concerned about his health. So since he had been eating all that junk food there must have been something wrong.

"If a Black person killed someone and the defense used the excuse that they'd been eating too many Twinkies, everyone would think they were crazy."

More than 1,500 lesbians and gay men marched to San Francisco's City Hall, May 21, the day the verdict was announced, to protest a decision "that would let people feel free to assault lesbians and gay men without fear of severe punishment." The crowd reached 5,000 by

later in the evening. And after the police arrived, angry demonstrators began throwing bricks and other objects and setting police cars on fire.

SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATIONS IN NEW YORK

In solidarity with the San Francisco protests, New York lesbians and gay men took to the streets May 22 and 23. Said a spokesperson for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, "Nothing can bring back Harvey Milk and George Moscone, but the token punishment of their murderer, Dan White, has served as a signal that it's open season on gay people. The lesbian and gay community interprets this injustice as an expression of homophobia, as anti-gay as the murder of Harvey Milk itself."

With New York City police maintaining a low profile, the crowd took to the streets of the village as it marched past Christopher Street's gay men's bars into an area where gays were attacked last summer and on to the Sixth Precinct, the village outpost of the New York City Police Department. There the crowd stopped for some minutes' angry protest, yelling, "Gays Fight Back" and slogans against cops.

There were reminders too of killings and harassment by police throughout the city and the country: some signs made hastily by demonstrators mentioned both Arthur Miller and Harvey Milk -- Miller being the Black community leader in Brooklyn who was "accidentally strangled" inside a police car last summer.

For several hours, lesbians and gay men raised the cry "Fired up, won't take no more!" -- a slogan raised during last year's anti-Bakke demonstration and used by New York's Black United Front in protests against Miller's death and other abuses in the Black community. Other chants called for "Gay Power," "Gay Rights," "Free all lesbians from patriarchal rule" and "They say get back, we say fight back."

It was also pointed out that gay rights is not enough to ask for, since gays in San Francisco have political rights but that didn't save Harvey Milk's life.

The following night, despite pouring rain,

lesbians and gay men again gathered for a short march, and then for a rally and meeting in a local church. An overflow crowd had to leave the church for a while, after a bomb scare, but returned to bring down the rafters with their militant demands for lesbian and gay rights now.

CHICAGO COMMUNITY FACES ATTACKS

In Chicago, gay activist Jo Murray said, "We are shocked, stunned and cannot believe that White got away with cold-blooded, calculated murder. We have not had any public action yet, because we are busy dealing with recent attacks on the gay community."

The Chicago gay men's community, according to Murray, has been experiencing a flurry of raids on bars, and many men have been beaten up by police during these attacks in the last week. "If they want to close down the bars for violations," Murray told LNS, "then close the bars. But don't attack the people inside. We're concerned with the lives and rights and dignity of gay people and we're going to fight for them."

Representatives of the Chicago gay community have been meeting with the police department and a representative of the mayor, who has been sympathetic to lesbian and gay issues, to try to end the attacks by the police on gays. But the police have been far from responsive. One local police commissioner threw Murray out of a meeting. The gay community has asked for that commissioner's ouster from office, saying, "The top represents the bottom. He is very homophobic and must have some influence with the rest of the force."

And in San Francisco, there has been an increase in attacks on the lesbian and gay community, especially since Milk's murder. Off-duty male police officers attacked two women inside a lesbian bar March 30, after forcing their way in shouting, "Let's go get the dykes."

Both officers were removed from any assignment requiring contact with the public. Although one comes up for a hearing which will determine whether or not he will be suspended or expelled from the force, the other only has to appear before Police Chief Gain, who is not empowered to do more than suspend the officer for 10 days.

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LABOR/WOMEN/ANTI-NUCLEAR

SILKWOOD JURY DEALS A BLOW TO NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

BY LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (LNS) -- It's been a long time coming, but on May 18, a federal jury in Oklahoma City ordered the Kerr-McGee Company to pay \$10.5 million in damages to the relatives of Karen Silkwood.

Silkwood, a worker and union organizer at a Kerr-McGee plutonium processing plant in Crescent, Oklahoma, was killed in a suspicious car accident in 1974 after investigating safety conditions inside the plant. Before her death, she had charged that Kerr-McGee had strayed so far from federal regulations on safety conditions that it posed a danger to workers and the public.

The decision is expected to have a drastic impact on the already embattled nuclear power industry. Shortly before her death, Silkwood was contaminated with plutonium and traces of the deadly substance were found in her apartment. In the suit, Silkwood's family charged that her contamination from plutonium was a result of company negligence and therefore a violation of her civil rights. Plutonium, aptly named after the mythological God of Hell, is generally considered the most toxic substance on earth, known to cause cancer even in minute amounts.

LEGAL GROUND BROKEN

During the 11-week-long trial, attorneys for Kerr-McGee attempted to answer charges of safety violations inside the plant by claiming that Silkwood was "mentally unstable," "frustrated," "a homosexual" and under pressure from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW). Lawyers for the company even went so far as to assert that Silkwood had deliberately brought plutonium into her own apartment.

The judge in the case ruled, however, that testimony on Silkwood's character was inadmissible, and instructed the jury to base its decision only on whether or not there were hazardous conditions inside the plant. Moreover, he held that the use

of plutonium was so dangerous that the company could be held responsible for damages regardless of whether it could be proved negligent in complying with government standards.

"The liability," he said, "arises out of the abnormal activity itself and the risk it creates of harm to those in the vicinity." Furthermore, he noted that while government safety standards are "entitled to a high degree of respect and belief," they need not be "accepted as right or accurate if they defy human credence."

Gerald Spence, one of Silkwood's attorneys, declared after the verdict was announced that the case had shown "the government standards are a numbers game. They are not true, and they don't protect the American public or nuclear workers."

Spence's view was echoed by the vice president of OCAW, Anthony Mazzocchi, who called the verdict "a vindication of Karen's efforts and proof positive that her claims to us about what was going on inside that plant were accurate."

"It's a milestone," Mazzocchi continued, "in making plants safer for workers as well as the public."

SUPPORTERS HAIL VERDICT

In interviews with LNS following the verdict, supporters of Silkwood voiced their reactions to the case.

"There's no question that we're really exhilarated and encouraged by the decision," Alison Freeman of the Karen Silkwood Education Project in Oklahoma stated. "We feel Karen has been vindicated; that the union, the OCAW has been vindicated. This is just the beginning. We're looking ahead to the second trial, which we hope will bring out the mysteries still to be unraveled of what happened to Karen on the night that she died. In the process we also hope to unravel the covert intelligence operations as well."

On the evening of her death, Silkwood was driving to meet *New York Times* reporter David Burnham and a representative of the OCAW, bringing with her documents on the lax safety precautions at the plant. The documents, which a co-worker saw Silkwood take with her, disappeared in the crash and have never been recovered. Kerr-McGee officials

were the first to arrive on the scene after the accident.

And while the Oklahoma Highway Patrol called the crash an accident," an independent investigator hired by the OCAW found dents on her rear bumper suggesting that another car had deliberately forced her off the road.

A second trial involving charges against the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, local police officials and the FBI is scheduled to take place in a few months. Supporters have charged that the three law enforcement groups were involved in a conspiracy against Silkwood and officials of the OCAW which violated their civil rights.

Freeman stressed that the court's decision was an important victory for women as well as for nuclear workers and the anti-nuclear movement. "Karen Silkwood was a woman among few women in the plant and in the union," she explained. "She stepped forward to take leadership and that was important. We feel fortunate that the judge in the case did not permit the petty aspects of Kerr-McGee's charges to be heard. Kerr-McGee attempted a classic character assassination of Karen as a woman -- calling her 'mentally unstable,' an 'unfit mother,' etc. We have to demonstrate that when a woman steps forward to do something right in a union or wherever that we will support them in life and in death. We can no longer allow this double standard against women."

"The corporations can no longer hide behind the Price-Anderson Act," Ada Sanchez, coordinator of Supporters for Silkwood in Washington, D.C. told LNS in a phone interview. Sanchez explained that this was the first time ever that a corporation had been held responsible for personal injury and was therefore a significant victory against the Price-Anderson Act, which states that corporations are only liable in case of a meltdown. "Now the corporations will have to pay if they contaminate water and you drink it and get leukemia."

"I expected that Kerr-McGee would appeal," Sanchez continued, discussing the planned appeal from the company. "They're saying that they're appealing on the grounds that the decision attacked government regulations on plant safety,

but the evidence is just overwhelming. Workers testified to the safety violations inside the plant; scientists testified that no radiation was safe."

"We're very happy about the decision," Herb Ettel of the national office of the Mobilization for Survival told LNS. Ettel then stated that "although the \$10.5 million was nothing for Kerr-McGee," it was symbolic of the changes in public opinion on the nuclear industry.

"It shows that the corporations can't get away with violating workers' health and safety and the public's health and safety anymore."

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ANTI-NUCLEAR/INTELLIGENCE

Note to editors: Over the last few years, considerable evidence has accumulated about spying on anti-nuclear groups by both government intelligence agencies and the utility companies themselves. The following article, excerpted from a longer version published by the Center for National Security Studies, provides a useful summary of information that has been uncovered so far. The full text of the article, whose footnotes provide a good list of other sources, can be obtained from the CNSS, 122 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, D.C., 20002.

INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT BOTH SPY ON ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUPS

BY CHRISTINE MARWICK
FIRST PRINCIPLES/LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (LNS) -- The nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island reactor in Pennsylvania has focused national attention on the dangers of nuclear power, and new attention is being paid to its critics. What has received far less notice than it deserves is the growing body of evidence showing that these critics have been the objects of considerable attention by government and corporate spies for quite some time.

The excuse offered by various government agencies and utilities for spying on anti-nuclear activists has been the threat posed by both organized terrorists and the mentally unbalanced. But anti-nuke groups cite that danger as merely another

reason to shut the plants down. They also point out that the intelligence apparatus has been directed against every major movement for social change in this century.

Just as even pacifists who opposed the war in Indochina were viewed by the intelligence community as direct threats to the government, non-violent anti-nuke activists can now be targeted as "potential" terrorists, or even as "identified terrorists."

And indeed, this seems to be happening. The State Department's roster of terrorist organizations has listed the Clamshell Alliance, which has done nothing more dangerous than use the traditional tactics of non-violent protest and civil disobedience to fight construction of a nuclear reactor at Seabrook, New Hampshire.

FEDS AND COPS BOTH ON THE CASE

The federal agencies with jurisdiction over threats to nuclear plants (FBI, Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) have maintained a relatively low profile in surveillance of nuclear critics. The Department of Energy apparently does collect files on nuclear critics. Not much has come out about FBI surveillance since its intelligence operations have brought its activities into question. Occasional tidbits do surface, such as the 1976 FBI report from "three sources of unknown reliability" that "plans are being made by 'motorcycle gangs and Indians' to take over the Zion [nuclear] station during the Memorial Day weekend." A warning went out to all nuclear plants, but the threat proved to be an example of overreaction to untrustworthy intelligence.

More typically, surveillance of nuclear power critics seems to be conducted by state and local police and by private security operations carried out by the utilities themselves.

For example, an intelligence report of the New Hampshire State Police has been made public. It is instructive both for the way that the police viewed the non-violent Clamshell Alliance and for the weaknesses of the intelligence process.

The State Police's account was drawn from a combination of FBI reports, U.S. Labor Party re-

ports, and a right wing newsletter called *Information Digest*. The intelligence analysis recounted the allegations of two U.S. Labor Party (also known as the National Caucus of Labor Committees, or NCLC) members without criticism. For example:

These two very well informed gentlemen felt that the planned demonstration on April 30, 1977 at the site of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant is nothing but a cover for terrorist activity.

The notion of using the labor Party as a reliable source shows that the quality of domestic intelligence has not improved over the past several years. Although the Labor Party makes no secret of its often bizarre views, the intelligence report takes into account only what it wants. It does not place these accounts within the context of the Party's imaginative conspiracy theories which should make it clear that, far from being "well informed," Labor Party allegations are inherently unreliable. For example, the Party's analysis (not included in the police report) of the "Command Structure" of the "nuclear terrorism drive" asserts that a Laurence Rockefeller front is "the primary overseer of this nuclear terrorist network," backed up by an "environmentalist network" headed by Rockefeller CIA agent Cord Meyer. These groups back up the Clamshell Alliance which is supposedly running all the anti-nuclear demonstrations in the country.

On the West Coast, when the non-violent Abalone Alliance protesters occupied the grounds of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear plant in 1977, two of their 40 participants turned out to be undercover deputy sheriffs. These two continued their surveillance even while the legal defense for the trespass charges was underway. Some of the allegations by Abalone Alliance members merit special attention. According to the Alliance members, the conduct of the undercover agents had fit the traditional pattern of agents provocateurs: the undercover sheriffs "were the only two who had talked about violence."

UTILITIES BUY THEIR OWN SPIES

In addition to state and local law enforcement, the utilities themselves have been extremely active in carrying out intelligence operations. An

investigation of Securities and Exchange Commission records shows in dollars and cents that nuclear power is more dangerous than conventional power sources to civil liberties as well as to health. For instance, the records show that in 1976, 76 nuclear power utilities paid out a total of nearly \$3 million to private security firms. By contrast, the contracts for 56 corporations with only conventional power sources tallied only \$8.900. These figures include only hired security companies; many nuclear utilities have set up security/intelligence units of their own.

Best known, perhaps, are the extensive security operations of the Georgia Power Co. Georgia Power's equipment included James Bond gizmos (such as cars with headlight configurations that could be changed at the flick of a switch -- handy while tailing after dark), and it had an impressive yearly budget of \$750,000 a year.

There is also some evidence that these private power company units can get data from official sources by tying into an old boy network. One former Georgia Power intelligence official said:

I could get anything I wanted on your background by going directly to a sheriff or possibly a chief of police in this state, anything that had been fed into the national computer.... The only hesitancy is that you [are supposed to] burn the information after you get it.

The national computers presumably include those of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit. The New Hampshire Police, like the county police where Georgia Power operates, are members of LEIU.

This use of private security companies also presents some clear risks to the public safety. The private security companies have a history of abuses. Private industry used them to spy on the labor movement -- a function which was outlawed in the 1930's when congressional investigators concluded that these companies had a "pecuniary interest" in fomenting trouble.

Again accounts from some anti-nuclear protesters give cause for concern that this could happen again. One anti-nuclear critic reported, for example, that a "friend" had tried to get him interested in learning about explosives. Later he learned

that his "friend" was working undercover for Georgia Power's security unit.

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ANTI-NUCLEAR/ WOMEN

WOMEN AND CHILDREN MARCH AGAINST THREE MILE ISLAND

NEW YORK (LNS)--In the first anti-nuclear demonstration organized specifically as a protest by women, more than 2,000 people, mostly women and children, marched in Reading, Pennsylvania, May 20, demanding that the Three Mile Island plant be shut down permanently. The march was organized by a few of the women in Three Mile Island Alert (TMIA), an anti-nuke group which formed in 1977 to inform people in the Harrisburg area of the dangers of nuclear power. Membership in TMIA has swelled from a maximum of 50 before the accident at Three Mile Island to over 1,000.

Kathy Chamberlin, one of the organizers of the march told LNS, "We're looking at the nuclear power issue as being closely tied to feminism. It's a little hard to get people to connect to that, but women and children are and have been greatly affected by nuclear power, yet we haven't had any role in the decision making about energy."

According to Chamberlin, many of the all women speakers at the rally focused on the "male mentality of nuclear power--the idea that corporate interest is more important than health, safety and people's lives."

"We were encouraged by the turnout of people at the march," Chamberlin told LNS. "There was a wide range--from toddlers to people in their sixties--mostly women and children. Unfortunately, there were not too many Third World people, but that has been the state of the movement so far.

"We wanted to have kids involved," she continued, "because it is something that affects them, often in ways that are hard to recognize. We won't know the health affects of the accident for

a long time, but already psychological affects are noticeable. Many children are having nightmares, and a lot of anxiety. It's important for us to get together and express our fear, anger and rage."

The protesters marched to Metropolitan Edison's office chanting "First you try to kill us, then you want to bill us." Met Ed, the owner and operator of the Three Mile Island plant, plans to pass on the cost of the accident to residents through an increase in their electric rates.

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ANTI-NUCLEAR/STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MAY SEVER TIES TO NUKE WEAPONS LABS

BY G. PASCAL ZACHARY

LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO (LNS)--Efforts aimed at halting nuclear arms development received an unexpected boost in mid-May.

Fresh from his appearance at the huge anti-nuclear rally in Washington, where he became the first presidential candidate to hop aboard the anti-nuke bandwagon, Governor Jerry Brown urged the May 17-18 meeting of the University of California's Board of Regents to end the school's 37 year involvement in nuclear weapons research.

Brown also asked that the controversial Livermore laboratory, located 45 miles east of San Francisco, be used only for non-weapons research. The Livermore laboratory and a second UC managed lab at Los Alamos, New Mexico, have designed and tested every nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal. The regents--a 25 member body that decides university policy--voted to delay action on the proposals until July.

A week earlier, Brown met for two hours with Daniel Ellsberg and four other members of the UC Weapons Labs Conversion Project--a Bay area group long critical of the university's role in overseeing the two nuclear weapons labs. At that time, Brown gave no indication that a policy shift was in the making, according to one

Conversion Project member who attended the meeting.

Following the Regent's meetings Ellsberg said that he "very much approved" of Brown's position. "We now have two months," he said, "to watch him and help him fight for that position."

The Conversion Project will continue to press for an end to nuclear arms research at both labs, according to spokesperson Wendy Bateson.

Bateson criticized Brown's suggestion that such research be concentrated in the Los Alamos lab. And she noted that despite reports that a major fault runs under or near the Livermore lab, Brown did not rule out the use of nuclear material there. The facility now holds between 500 and 800 pounds of plutonium.

Unfortunately, UC's exit from nuclear arms research - a move which the Governor called "inevitable"- will not put a lid on America's arsenal. The DOE, which pays the university \$600 million a year to run the two labs, is already exploring alternatives to UC management.

The Energy Research Advisory Board, in a report submitted to the DOE on April 26, told the department to "begin to prepare an alternate arrangement for the operation of the two weapons laboratories."

And the report says that a non-profit corporation, "designed specifically for the management" of the two labs, would be the best alternative.

In the wake of Brown's policy shift and the mass protest by 4,000 anti-nuclear activists at the Livermore lab on May 5, the DOE-sponsored report takes on added significance. To avoid more unfavorable publicity, the department may move quickly to cut its ties with the university.

Even so, the report indicates that backers of the labs know opposition can no longer be ignored or expected to evaporate. "The government will continue to have a major and difficult task of communicating with the public in the area of nuclear weapons," the report states, "because there is a small but vocal opposition to continued nuclear weapons research and development in any form."

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WEST GERMANY/ANTI-NUCLEAR

WEST GERMANY SLOWS PLANS FOR NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

BY MARTA LUXEMBURG
LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS)--Round one in what has been described as the most decisive battle to date between the German government and the anti-nuclear movement ended in mid-May with the government beating a tactical retreat in its ambitious nuclear program. The *Washington Post* reported on May 17 that the West German government has at least temporarily shelved plans to construct a nuclear reprocessing plant in Gorleben.

The proposed plant had been touted by government planners as the final solution to the "nuclear waste problem." Anti-nuclear activists, mobilizing under the slogan "Gorleben is everywhere," have made the proposed nuclear reprocessing plant the key target in their efforts to block construction of 11 new nuclear power plants and shut down the 15 already in operation. At the height of the Three Mile Island crisis in Pennsylvania, more than 35,000 people rallied against nuclear power in Hamburg, just 50 miles from the Gorleben site.

The government's decision to hold back on construction of the reprocessing plant came as no great surprise to anti-nuclear activists. Two weeks earlier, the new left-wing daily, *Die Tageszeitung* had published a front-page story about a "secret" meeting between Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the governor of Lower Saxony, where Gorleben is located. At that meeting, the paper reported, the decision was made not to build the plant right away.

Suspensions that the government was merely hoping to buy time were fueled further when the decision was announced. At the same time, the government stated its intention to forge ahead with building a storage building for nuclear wastes at Gorleben and with drilling to find additional storage space in old salt mines in the area.

Buergerinitiative Luechow-Dannenburgs, the local group which has been organizing against the Gorleben facility had predicted for quite a while that the government would come up with just such a scheme. The group argues that the government aims to get the storage building ready and begin dumping wastes in the salt mines without stirring up overwhelming opposition. Later, with the presence of radioactive materials already an established fact, it might be easier to go ahead and build the reprocessing plant.

Nevertheless, the Buergerinitiative welcomed the delay as a small victory for the anti-nuclear movement. For while the government apparently hopes anti-nuclear sentiment will die down, its opponents are confident that time is on their side, because it gives them more opportunities to organize. -30-

PRISONERS

PRISONERS GO ON TRIAL FOR '77 ANTI-KLAN REBELLION

BY LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (LNS)--New York City area prison activists are currently mobilizing against what they say is the "legal lynching" of Felix Castro, one of a group of prisoners known as the August 8th Brigade who fought back against the presence of Klan guards inside the state's prison system.

Members of the Brigade face charges stemming from the August 8, 1977 takeover of the Eastern New York Correctional Facility at Napanoch, New York by over 300 prisoners. The prisoners were protesting vicious Klan terror and KKK organizing among guards inside the prison. One of the prisoners' key demands was the removal of two known KKK guards. The rebellion erupted after four years of writing suits and filing petitions against KKK guard brutality without any action being taken by the Department of Corrections to resolve the prisoners' complaints.

Court proceedings against Castro, the first member of the Brigade to stand trial, are currently underway in upstate New York's Ulster County. Castro is charged with first degree rioting, attempted coercion and unlawful imprisonment. If convicted, he faces a minimum 7-15 years in prison and possibly a life sentence.

Supporters have charged that the proceedings against Castro have been prejudiced right from the very start. There were no Hispanic people in the prospective juror panel and the two Black people in the panel were immediately dismissed. As a result, Castro, a 32 year old Puerto Rican prisoner, is being tried by an all-white jury whose average age is more than 50.

In a recent *New York Times* editorial, Tom Wicker expressed views similar to those of the supporters of the August 8th Brigade. After recounting how prisoners had hurt none of the hostages taken during the uprising at Napanoch, and how they had negotiated with prison officials in "good faith," by releasing the hostages, Wicker noted that these gestures came at the "suggestion of Felix Castro, a respected inmate leader who was head of a group called Latinos Unidos."

"Such inmates are always regarded as 'troublemakers' by guards," continued Wicker. "Yet testimony shows that Mr. Castro was locked in his cell when the August 8 revolt began; that he was released 45 minutes later by other inmates; and that he was not seen to assault anyone, damage property or carry a weapon..."

A defense motion requesting a change of venue from Ulster County, the official home of the Independent Northern Klan, Inc., was denied shortly after the trial began. Despite widespread knowledge of Klan activity in the

area, the presiding judge consistently blocked every defense attempt to undercover KKK sympathies among prospective jurors.

On May 2, the second day of jury selection, the courtroom was cleared after a bomb scare was phoned in. The caller threatened, "Whites have rights too. We're serious. There's a bomb in the courtroom." The following evening, defense lawyers who were driving to Napanoch prison to interview prospective witnesses had their car nearly run off the road by another car with covered over license plates.

"It's ridiculous that these cases are even going to trial," Akil Al-Jundi, one of the organizers of the Committee to Support the August 8th Brigade told LNS. "On August 8, 1977," Al-Jundi stated, "nature took its natural course in the form of a rebellion."

Al-Jundi then pointed out that the District Attorney in the case, Michael Cavanaugh, had run for office on a platform advocating the death penalty and opposing prisoners' rights. Cavanaugh, Al-Jundi stated, had even gone as far as calling the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild "communist organizations" and demanding an end to prisoner education and work release programs. The judge in the case, John Clyne, Al-Jundi stated, was known as "Maximum John" because of the long sentences he gives.

"The issue is around the Klan in the prisons. We are saying that there should be no trials. Prisoners try to get the administration to address their demands and they don't. People have to understand that because of this continual process rebellions occur. By the administration's refusal to deal with the conditions inside the prison, the people who live under these conditions [the prisoners] are forced to take actions.

"It's the same thing that happened in our case," explained Al-Jundi who was himself a prisoner wounded in the 1971 Attica rebellion. "But ain't nothing changed. Again the prisoners are being made the scapegoat."

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

SEARS SUIT ATTACKING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION GUIDELINES OVERTURNED

NEW YORK (LNS)--"It was a sham," Gerald Horn, director of the New York City-based Affirmative Action Coordinating Center told LNS shortly after the May 15 dismissal of a Sears, Roebuck and Company suit attacking affirmative action guidelines. "Sears took a bold offensive and suffered a resounding defeat."

The suit, filed by Sears, claimed that it was the government's veterans preference laws that created "an unbalanced workforce" dominated by white males. Moreover, Sears alleged that conflicting government employment regulations had left it confused and named 10 federal agencies headed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as the sources of its confusion.

The suit was thrown out of court by a U.S. District Court Judge in Washington, D.C. If successful, it would have effected 30 million workers at 38,000 companies.

"To be sure," Judge June Green wrote in the opinion dismissing the suit, "realization of the national policy of genuine equal opportunity for all citizens is a formidable task, but not one beyond the notable skill and competence of Sears."

Sears, the largest retailer in the world, and in the midst of a planned massive job discrimination suit from the EEOC, had filed the suit on behalf of itself and all general merchandisers. The EEOC complaint against the company contends that women and Black workers are systematically excluded from high paying jobs, both in Sears stores and in its corporation headquarters in Chicago.

"There was never any doubt in the legal community that this suit would be dismissed," Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairperson of the EEOC told reporters from the *Washington Post*,

NEW YORK CITY GROUP URGES SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD PRISONERS

In a letter to movement groups urging support for demands of Third World prisoners and calling for a barrage of letters and telegrams aimed at New York Governor Hugh Carey and his Commissioner of Corrections, Richard Hongisto, New York's John Brown Anti-Klan Committee recounts some of the highlights in the long battle waged by Black and Third World prisoners to drive the Klan out of the prisons. Since "Klan activity escalated in the prisons of New York State in the late '60's and early '70's in direct response to the national liberation struggles, and particularly the Black liberation struggle," the letter notes, prisoners have fought back "at the risk of their lives and safety." Recounting the success in their struggle, the letter points out that prisoners have built prisoner organizations, forced the exposure of one teacher at Napanoch prison as the grand dragon of the Independent Northern Klan of New York State, and exposed a functioning Klan cell of 35 other guards. In fact, it was the legal actions brought by inmates which eventually forced the state to bring its own suit against the Klan...after consistently refusing to cooperate with the prisoners' federal suit.

While the state could not find sufficient evidence to prove the "detrimental impact" of Klan guards, prison activists have catalogued numerous incidents of harassment, beatings and outright murders for which they held the Klan and the state mutually responsible. Such incidents have served to confirm the prisoners' analysis of the Klan as "the armed militia of white supremacy" and fueled the charges of the Anti-Klan Committee. "The terror in the prisons" say members of the committee, "is part of the U.S. government's multi-level strategy of counter insurgency." Moreover, the current resurgence of the Klan activity both inside and outside prison walls, the Committee argues, is directly related to the "campaigns against affirmative action, for the death penalty, for tax cuts and for the expansion of police forces."

"The equal employment opportunity laws are too serious to be entangled with frivolous litigation."

The Affirmative Action Coordinating Committee's Horn also noted that the recent drop in profits for Sears was a result of the suit and said that that was the people's way of saying, "don't mess with the movement." Although optimistic about the dismissal of Sears' suit, he nevertheless urged that activists continue to organize around the Weber case and other "reverse discrimination" suits such as a recent one challenging a requirement that 10 percent of all public works grants go to Third World firms.

The new case, filed by a group of New York-based contractors, was accepted for review by the Supreme Court on May 21. The contractors are claiming that the provisions for minority firms violate the Constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection as well as a provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 barring race discrimination in federally-assisted programs.

"I'm afraid that people will see this as just a businessmen's case," Horn stated in reference to the contractors' suit. He noted that "people should keep clear in their minds the fact that the only way Black workers can get involved in construction work is through minority contractors."

In the past, Black workers attempting to enter construction work have often met fierce resistance from white contractors and unions in the field. Last year, in fact, a group of Black construction workers picketing a work site in New York City was attacked by a group of white workers. During the fight that followed, one Black protester's arm was cut off.

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(See photos.)

GUATEMALA

REPRESSION RAGES, RESISTANCE RISES

(Editor's note: In recent months, people in this country have discovered the existence of revolution in Nicaragua, oil in Mexico, a growing popular resistance in El Salvador. Central America has suddenly figured prominently in the headlines. In the following article, two members of a National Lawyers Guild delegation which recently returned from Guatemala describe another Central American nation in which social conflicts brutally suppressed since a CIA-backed coup in 1954 have erupted in both an escalation of repression and a resurgence of resistance.)

BY ROBERT HILLIARD AND BARBARA HANDSCHU
LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS) -- Three years ago, world attention focused briefly on the plight of the Guatemalan people after a disastrous earthquake left more than 20,000 dead and some 100,000 homeless. But only recently, following the assassination of two prominent opposition leaders, did the commercial media in the U.S. wake up to the

the political bloodletting that Amnesty International estimates has killed at least as many people over the last 12 years.

First, in January, Alberto Fuentes Mohr of the Social Democratic Party was shot down. Then, on March 22, Manuel Colom Argueta, the head of the United Front for the Revolution (FUR), was gunned down in broad daylight by a large band of men armed with machine guns. The next day, 400,000 people turned out at his funeral in a massive display of anger and sorrow. Placards and banners appeared everywhere, blaming the government for the death of the former mayor of Guatemala City.

Just days earlier, Colom Argueta's party had won legal recognition, after 13 years of battling for it. We were told that he would have won in a landslide if he had been allowed to run for the presidency. We were also told, only two days before he was shot down, that the government planned to assassinate him.

In Guatemala, it pays to take such predictions seriously. Since a CIA-backed coup ousted the progressive nationalist government of Jacobo Arbenz in 1954, a series of military dictators has ruled the country. And for 25 years, right-wing "death squads" such as the Secret Anti-Communist Army (ESA) have had free rein to massacre suspected opponents of the regime. Amnesty International estimates that 20,000 people have murdered just since 1967, and others set the figure as high as 40,000. The number of tortured bodies found along the roadsides of Guatemala is now approaching eight per day. Still, the last three years have seen a steady increase in popular resistance and the growth of a number of political organizations, labor unions and peasant associations.

COCA-COLA: CASE STUDY OF IMPERIALISM AND RESISTANCE

The Coca-Cola workers union is a good example of both the growing militancy and growing repression. Workers at the Embotelladora Guatemalteca first tried to form a union in 1954. Their efforts were crushed after generals trained by the CIA in the Panama Canal Zone invaded the country, overthrew Arbenz, and put an end to his modest program of land reform, nationalizing some unused lands held by the United Fruit Company.

Fourteen years later, the workers tried again to unionize. Their leader, Cesar Barillas, was kidnapped, his tortured body appearing a few days later, and the effort to organize was stifled.

A third unionizing drive, launched in 1975, finally succeeded. But not without a struggle. Right after the quake, in February 1976, the company fired 152 workers. The workers responded by occupying the bottling plant, demanding restoration of the jobs, recognition of the union and good faith negotiations. They succeeded in getting the 152 workers rehired, and they also sparked formation of a trade union support committee which later grew into a National Committee for Trade Union Unity that groups together most of the unions and federations in Guatemala.

Since then, labor-management relations have been far from smooth. The company has attempted to break the union by creating 12 'legally separate' subdivisions in the single bottling plant to force

the union to organize and negotiate for 12 separate units. More direct tactics have also been used. On December 12, 1978, Pedro Quevedo y Quevedo, a union leader, was gunned down in the street. Israel Marquez, the General Secretary of the union at Coca-Cola had survived a similar attack in October and in January was saved by the workers from a kidnapping attempt, at a time when the Coke plant was virtually occupied by the police. January 24, 1979, gunmen attacked a house where Marquez had recently stayed, killing one person and gravely wounding another. At that point, Marquez was forced to seek asylum in the Venezuelan embassy and then left the country.

The names of Quevedo and Marquez had appeared on a hit list published last year by the Secret Anti-Communist Army. Another Coca-Cola union leader's name on the list was Manuel Lopez Balam. On April 5, Balam was stabbed to death by two men on a motorcycle.

At a Coke stockholders' meeting this May, Marquez spoke in support of a resolution submitted by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, which charged Coke with complicity in the violence and called on the company to formulate minimum labor standards for bottlers. The company claimed that it can't control "independent" bottlers, and anyway the laws of foreign countries protect workers' rights to organize. The minority resolution was rejected by 98 percent of the voted shares. Stickers calling for a boycott of Coke were posted along the route of Balam's funeral procession in Guatemala City in spite of heavy police patrols.

These three murders connected with the Coca-Cola workers' union are but a small part of the pattern of brutal repression in Guatemala. During a six month period in 1978, reports the head of "La Verbena" cemetery in Guatemala City, 770 unidentified bodies were buried showing signs of violent death and torture. Some of these murders probably represent victims of "anti-delinquency" campaigns by the police. But most are workers, peasants, leftists or other people unlucky enough to be caught up in the campaign of terror aimed at keeping the population in a state of fear that any opposition to the rulers of government and industry may be fatal.

The repression takes a high toll in lives but it has not succeeded in stamping out the Guatemalan people's desire for radical social change. Other workers have used direct action tactics like those at Coca-Cola and have occupied factories. In September 1978, workers occupied two Swiss-owned asbestos roofing plants when the owners threatened to shut down the older factory. The company claimed that it was overstocked, just a month after everyone had been working overtime. The workers occupied the plant and then the Swiss Embassy to force the company to negotiate. Six months later, the company agreed to a 3¢ raise in the starting wage to 40¢ an hour.

POVERTY, TERROR AND RESISTANCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

While instances of worker militancy and government repression may be more widely publicized in the cities, the violence is most intense

in the countryside. There over 50 percent of the population, most of them direct descendants of the Mayas, continue to eke out a bare subsistence living from agriculture.

The beginnings of an agrarian reform under Arbenz in 1954 were reversed by the CIA coup and little has been done since to change the inequitable distribution of land. Two percent of family heads -- plantation owners -- control 62 percent of the arable land; 87 percent of the farming units cover only 19 percent of such land. This means that most campesinos can only spend part of the year in their highland homes, where all their labors cannot produce enough on their small plots to feed their families. For the rest of the year, they are forced to migrate to the coast to work the harvests on the large plantations of sugar, cotton and coffee. They take their families with them and live under the trees, or if they are lucky, under galeras -- just a roof with no walls, no water, about 100 square feet per family, earning from \$1 to \$2 per day.

Guatemala has much unoccupied land. But most of it is not available to the masses of campesinos.

The large area known as the Northern Transversal Strip until recently was undeveloped land. Discovery of oil, nickel and uranium in the Transversal has provoked a rush of foreign investment. Leading the charge have been companies like EXIMBAL, which holds a large concession to mine nickel. EXIMBAL is owned 80 percent by INCO, a Canadian company, and 20 percent by Hanna Mining Co., in the U.S.

Along with an increase in foreign investment in the Transversal there has been an increase in the number of Guatemalan military officers who suddenly show up with 'title' to vast amounts of land there. In fact, one area in the northwest Department of Quiche, is known as the "zone of the Generals." It was here that Father Bill Woods, a U.S. Maryknoll priest, was organizing campesino cooperatives when he died in a mysterious plane crash in 1976.

It was also in the area of the Northern Transversal Strip that the largest peasant massacre in recent years occurred. Peasants around the town of Panzos were being evicted by the military from lands they had worked for decades, sometimes without the benefit of legal title. On May 29, 1978, 800 peasants--men, women and children--marched into Panzos to protest the military evictions and to demand information about three of their members who had been kidnapped by the Army. The unarmed peasants were met with machine-gun fire by 150 soldiers. More than 100 were killed, either shot down or drowned in the Polochic River while trying to escape. The Army blocked access to the press and refused entry to Red Cross workers. A Belgian nun from the area was expelled from Guatemala after she denounced the massacre.

In the capital city, word of the massacre brought more than 100,000 people into the
(continued on inside front)

"My town voted 4 to 1 in favor of building a second nuclear power plant because they liked the way the first one saved money and didn't pollute." Kristy Vantrease.

"When we moved to Plymouth last November, we tried to buy a house right across from the nuclear plant where my husband works, but nobody wanted to sell."

"It helps that the air is very clean around the plant. You just don't get air pollution with nuclear plants and that's important to me."

"I guess the most appealing thing about nuclear power to the people of Plymouth is the money-saving aspect. The plant is one reason the taxes are low here and I understand the average family in the Boston area saves \$2 a month on their electric bill compared to what it would be if the plant used oil instead of nuclear fuel."

"So when it came to a vote on whether to build a second nuclear plant or not, the town voted 4 to 1 in favor of building it, which seems to speak pretty well for the first one."

"I believe the more people learn about nuclear power, the more they appreciate the money it can save and the way it doesn't pollute the air."

**Edison Electric Institute
for the electric companies**
90 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Kristy Vantrease, Plymouth, Massachusetts, with daughters Holley and Kimberly.



BUT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, USING A NUCLEAR REACTOR TO BOIL STEAM FOR ELECTRICITY IS LIKE USING A BLOWTORCH TO



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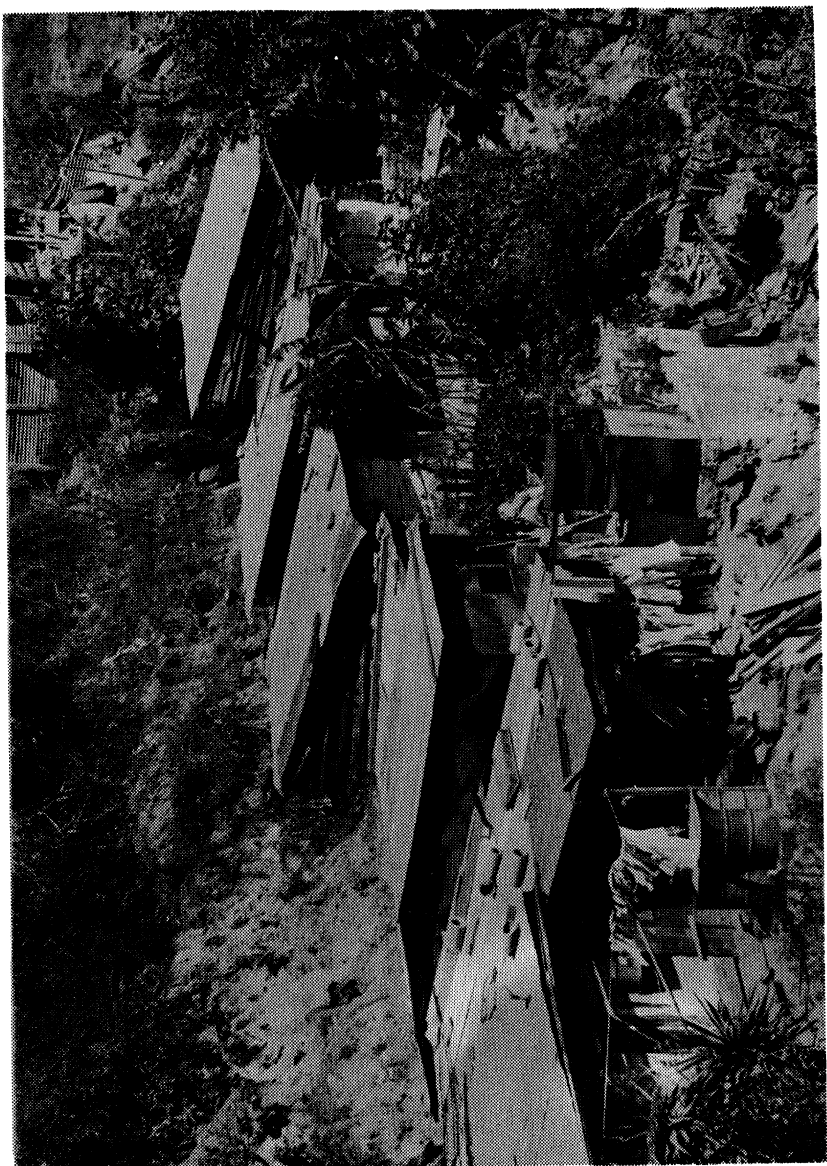
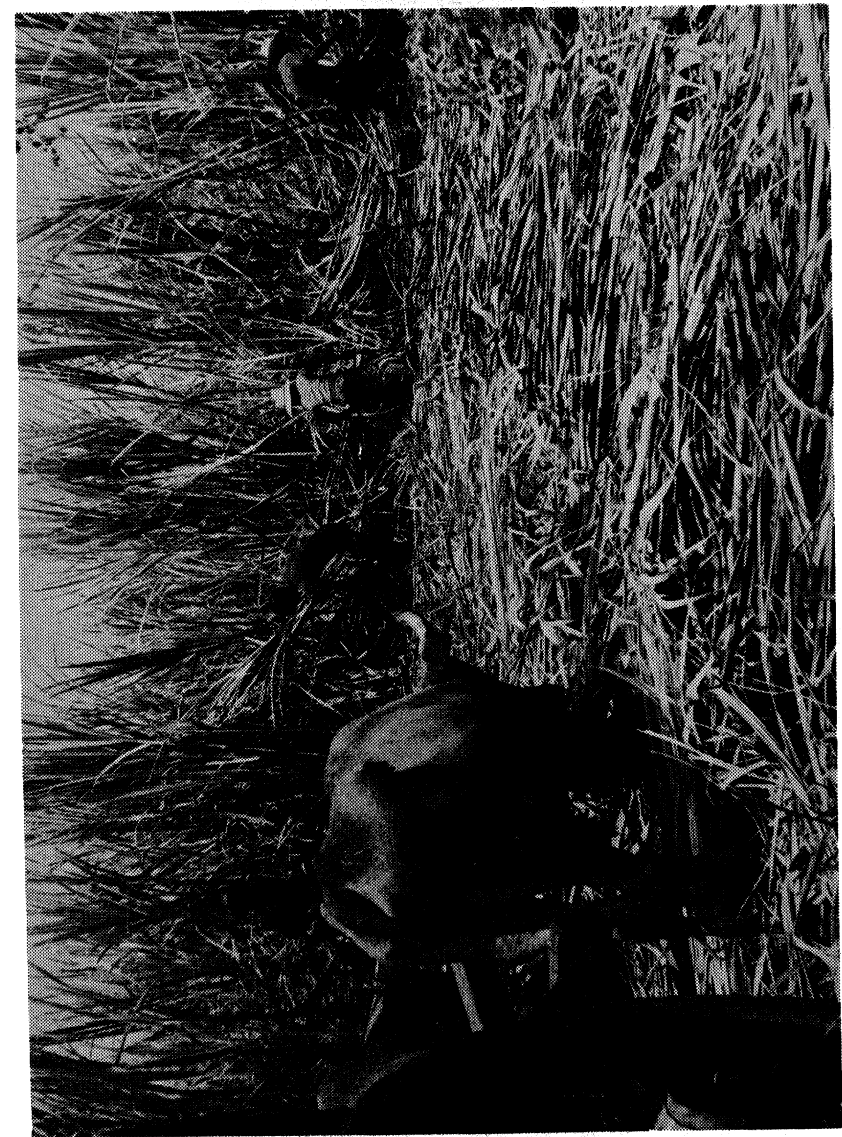
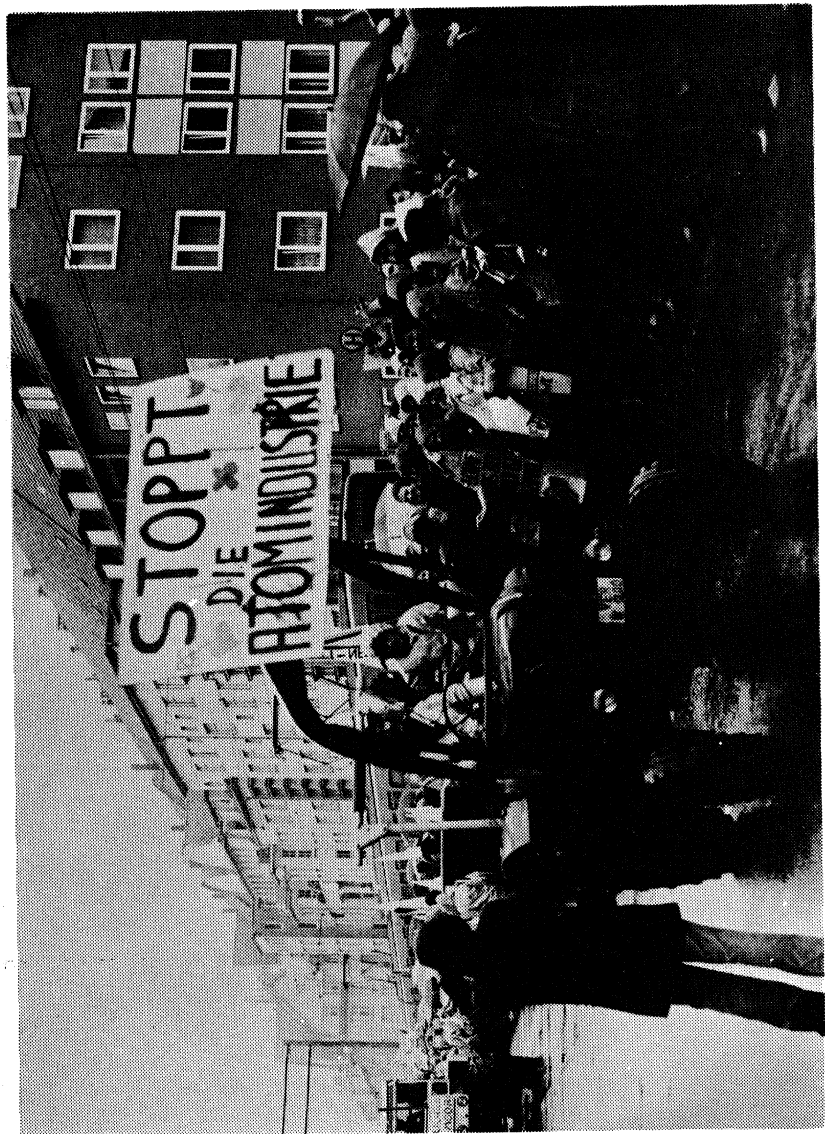
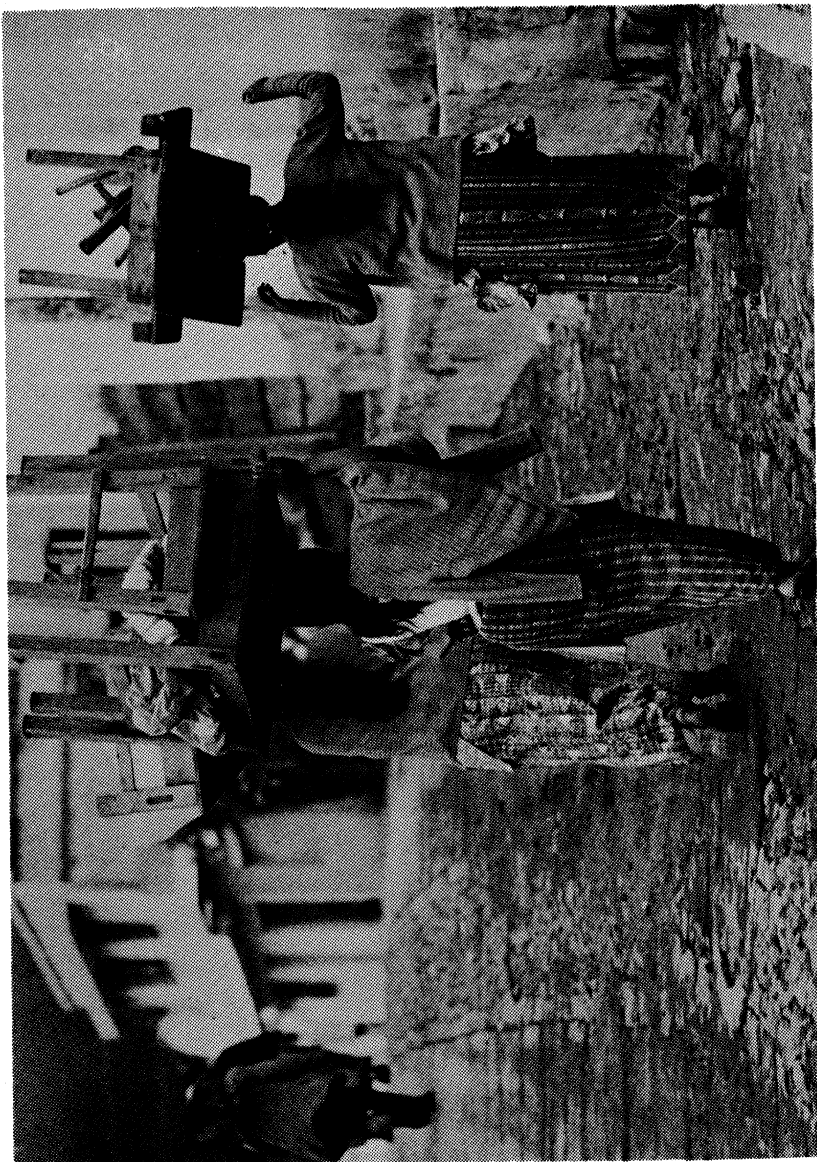
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Guatemalan Indian women enroute to the highlands, carrying furniture to their makeshift dwellings.

CREDIT: GNIB/LNS
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One of eleven settlements in and around Guatemala City. Almost half a million people are forced to build their homes from cardboard, scrap wood and plastic. No running water or sanitary facilities are available to the people who occupy unused government and private land.

CREDIT: GNIB/LNS
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Local farmers, sometimes using their tractors to block roads leading to the site, have played a major part in opposition to a proposed nuclear reprocessing plant in Gorleben, West Germany. The sign on this farmer's tractor, during an April demonstration in Hamburg, reads "Stop the Atomic Industry." The German government recently announced that it had indeed temporarily stopped plans to build the reprocessing plant. See also

CREDIT: Burkhard Kretschmann/LNS
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A sugar cane plantation on the Guatemala Pacific coast.

CREDIT: GNIB/LNS
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